

Minutes

Talbot County Board of Elections
215 Bay Street
Easton, MD 21601
May 18, 2022

Attendance

Board Members Present

Joseph Secrist, President	(R)
Richard Bulman	(R)
Wadella Thomas	(R)
Susan MacKinnon	(D)

Staff

Dionne Church, Former Election Director
Crystal McGinn, Talbot County Election Director

Board Attorney

Lyndsey Ryan

Public

None

The monthly meeting of the Talbot County Board of Elections was held May 18, 2022 in Conference Room # Two at the Board office indicated above. Mr. Secrist called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM. Mr. Secrist noted that a quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Secrist asked if the Board had any corrections or additions to the minutes of the meetings of April 20, 2022, and May 11, 2022, copies of which had been forwarded to the Board Members in advance of the meeting. Mr. Bulman noted that the conference room for the meeting of May 11, 2022 is incorrect in the draft he circulated and should be Conference Room # Two. With the correction of the meeting room for the May 11, 2022, Ms. MacKinnon move to approve both sets of minutes. Ms. Thomas seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Addition/Changes to the Agenda

Mr. Secrist asked for any additions or changes to the agenda as presented. Ms. MacKinnon asked that the agenda reflect that a personnel matter will be discussed in the Closed Session. With this addition, Ms. MacKinnon moved approval of the agenda. Ms. Thomas seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Election Director's Report

Ms. Church provided the Board with a written report on activities since the last Board Meeting through May 17, her final day at Talbot County prior to assuming the position of Election Director for Wicomico County. A copy of her report is attached to these minutes. She expanded on her report as follows:

- Primary Election ballots have been certified and are now posted on the State Board web site. They are also available in our office.
- She will work with Ms. McGinn to provide the county with projected year-end expenditures.
- Specimen ballots are being prepared and are expected to cost \$6,486 to print and about \$2,000 to mail to voters.
- Election Judge training is still on schedule.

Board Attorney's Report

Maryland's Open Meetings Act was amended in the last session of the legislature. The amendments will require more public disclosure of activities in closed session. She will provide further information for Board Members and staff. The changes will become effective in October 2022.

Old Business

a. Facility for Election Office

Ms. Church reported that there is no new information regarding the county's plan for space for the Election Board. Following discussion among Board Members, Ms. Church offered to reiterate to the county staff our need for the amount of space we have already requested and to emphasize that a suggested area in our current building is insufficient.

b. Budget FY 2022

Ms. Church provided the Board with reports on expenditures through March 2022. She noted that she recently received billings from the state for salaries and leases. Final year-end numbers may not be available until August.

c. Budget FY 2023

The County Council approved for public comment a budget that reflects the full amount of our request. Ms. Church believes funds for the Primary Election budgeted for FY 2022 will be available in FY 2023.

d. Review Invoices

Ms. Church previously provided Board Members with copies of invoices received since the last meeting. There were no questions from Board Members.

e. County Bulletins

Ms. Church previously provided copies of County Bulletins. There were no questions from Board Members.

f. Redistricting Update

Minimal redistricting has occurred in the county affected School Board districts. Final district maps will be published shortly.

g. 2022 Election Judge Update

Ms. Church believes we will have sufficient judges for the Primary Election. Not all potential judges have attended training yet. She expects a few dropouts, but no major changes. Board Members discussed the assignments and staffing levels at some of the polling places. Concern was expressed regarding the distance from home some judges will be assigned and the balance regarding party affiliation. Ms. Church said that she will work with staff on these matters.

New Business

a. Primary Election Update

The state expects that mail-in ballots will be sent the first week in June. A Disaster Recovery Report is due to the state June 1. She will work with Ms. McGinn to complete and submit it on time.

b. 2022 Updated Training Schedule

There have been no changes to the previously published schedule. Ms. MacKinnon asked that, if needed, could Board Members serve as judges? Ms. Ryan agreed to research the issue and advise the Board of her findings.

c. Municipal Elections

Oxford will conduct elections on June 21, 2022 and Trappe will conduct a Special Election on June 7, 2022. Ms. Church has provided each town with voter registration lists.

Confirmation of next meeting

Mr. Secrist reminded the Board that the next regular meeting of the Board will be Wednesday, June 15, 2022 at 9:30 AM.

Closed Session

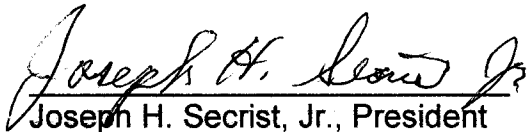
Ms. Thomas moved that the Board go into closed session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters that affect one or more specific individuals as permitted under General Provisions Art. 3-305(b) (1). Ms. MacKinnon seconded the motion. It passed unanimously. Whereupon the Board went into closed session at 2:08 PM. Present at this session were Board Members Mr. Secrist, Ms. Thomas, Ms. MacKinnon and Mr. Bulman. Ms. Church and Board Attorney Lyndsey Ryan were also present.

At 4:20 PM the Board returned to open session. President Secrist reported that the Board discussed specifics of and voted on the terms of employment of the Election Director.

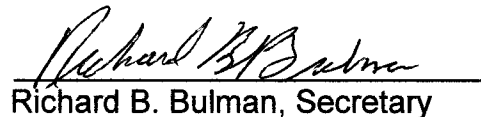
Adjournment

Ms. Thomas moved adjournment of the meeting. Ms. MacKinnon seconded the motion. It passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 4:22 PM.

Attested,


Joseph H. Secrist, Jr., President

Respectfully submitted,


Richard B. Bulman, Secretary